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INSTRUCTION BOOK

OF

BISBEE'S

AMERICAN TAILOR

SYSTEM

OF

DRESS CUTTING.

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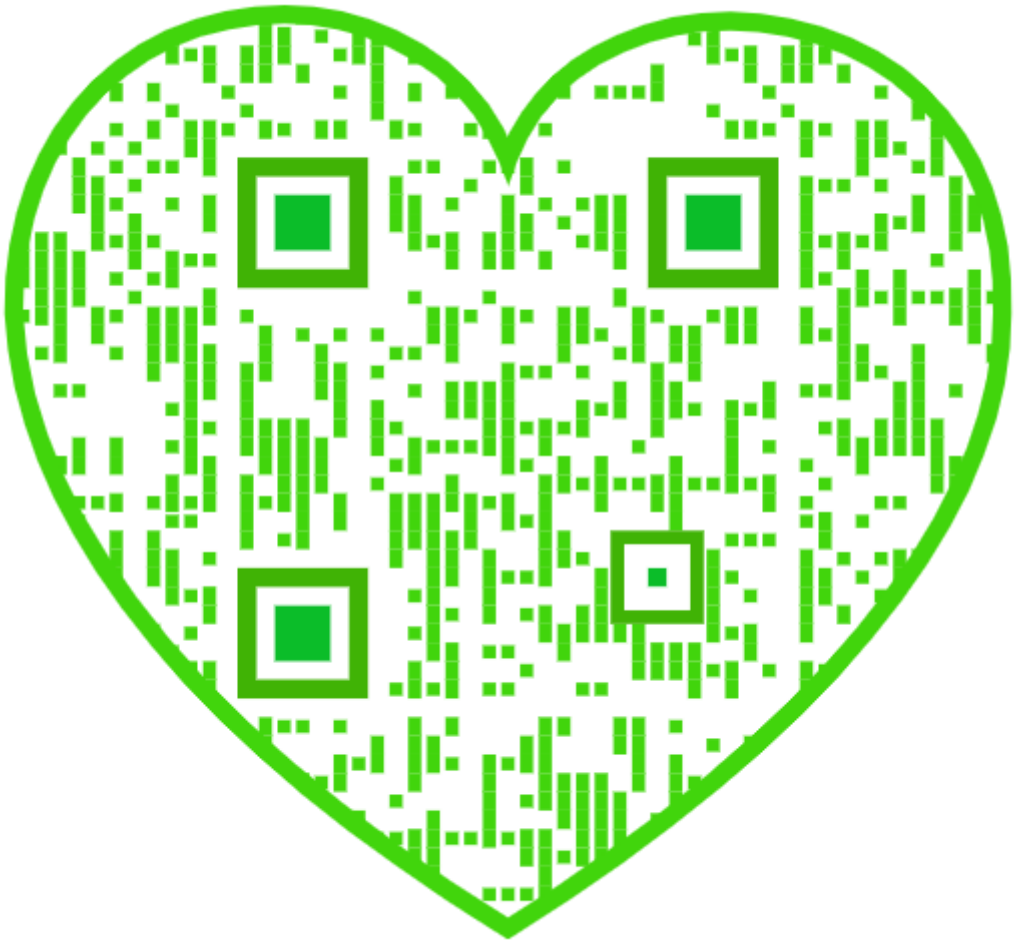


INSTRUCTION BOOK

OF

Bisbee's

American Tailor System

OF

DRESS CUTTING.

We want instructors and agents everywhere.

Write for our liberal terms. The work is pleasant and very profitable.

AMERICAN SYSTEM COMPANY,

P. O. Box 1743, Boston, Mass.

INTRODUCTION.

It is a woman's duty to always appear as well as she can, and make the most possible out of the advantages with which nature has endowed her, bringing them so far into prominence as to overshadow deficiencies and defects. That ideas of beauty are twisted and contorted into outrageous shapes is a deplorable fact, but that the world is being gradually educated up to a more correct and higher standard must be very evident to anyone taking the trouble to note the various improvements that have been brought about in the last few years. The greater number and the more noticeable of these improvements have been in Dress Systems. The advance in this department of art has been too frequently and ably discussed to require mention here. In presenting the *improved* **American System** to the public, we feel confident that it will meet with a want long felt. We believe we here present the most perfect system in use to-day, also the most simple and complete. We have taken great pains and no expense has been spared to make the instruction book so plain that any woman or girl will understand the System by a few hours study. "Practice makes perfect," and after a few day's practice with the System, you will be able to cut correctly any garment worn by woman or child. The System is absolutely correct. If the measures are taken correctly, and the rules are followed as directed, the garment will fit without the alteration of a single stitch.

F. S. BISBEE.

GENERAL DIRECTIONS.

In learning the *improved* **American System of Tailor Dress Cutting,** the first thing necessary is to familiarize yourself with the System. Carefully study each scale and note that every figure and scale means something. The System consists of large patterns with scales and perforations for producing patterns of any size. Each scale is lettered, so they are easy to follow and learn. Once having become familiar with the System, you will find it adapts itself to all styles and changes of styles. In furnishing this instruction book we have selected such garments as are mostly worn, and once having become familiar with them, there is no reason why you should not be able to cut any garment worn by woman or child.

For cutting cloaks, sacks, sailor waists, ulsters, mantels, and circular or any garment intended as an over-wrap or outside garment, take the same measure as for an ordinary drafting, then add two perforations in each scale and one perforation at waist scale and hip. To draft a full length garment extend it the desired length from hip curve with the dart rule. Allow for seams every place except armseye, and neck. In basting, always begin at waist line, basting first up, then down. It is very important to follow this rule if a perfect fit is desired. Follow the tracing marks exactly, as a slight deviation from this will cause the seams to look crooked When taking measure for a very fleshy person, take a measure from point of shoulder seam at neck to lower portion of bust and make upper point of darts come to that measure, as the approved style of low dart as shown in the system will be too low. In measuring a person, notice if they have taper, medium, square, or round shoulders.

Directions for drafting different sized Sleeve linings, viz., for a 9 inch armseye take off and add but one perforation at armseye and none at cuff, only extend it one perforation same as under of large size. From 10 to 12 inch armseye add two perforations at armseye and one at cuff. Extend under one perforation same as draft for large size.

For a first lesson we will take a plain basque. (In practice it is best to use plain light colored wrapping paper at least 24 x 36 in size.) Diagram No. 1 represents the front of a plain basque. You will observe it is the same shape as that part of the system represented in scales A to J. Begin by taking eight measures, viz., neck, armseye, bust, waist, hip, front length, under arm length, and back length. We will take the measure of a medium sized woman. Mark them as follows:

Neck 13½	Bust 36	Back 16½	Waist 24
Armseye 14	Front 14	Under arm 8½	Hip 46

Take neck measure tight, armseye tight. stand at the back in taking bust measure: be sure and take it over fulness close. Take waist measure tight. The under arm measure is taken from under the arm straight down to waist line. The front measure is taken from the neck or throat as high as you wish the dress to be when finished, and taken down to the waist line. For back, measure down the back from the prominent bone in the neck to the waist line. The hip measure is taken 4 inches below the waist line around the form.

We are now ready to commence drafting. Lay the system on the paper an inch or two from the edge in front, begin by marking like this—— at the edge of the System, at scale A 13½ (see Diagram No. 2). As 13½ represents the neck measure, then dot in the same number (13½) in scale B. Then dot in armseye measure (14) in scale C. Then dot in bust measure (36) in scale D and E, also (42) in scale E. We dot at 42 in scale E to add 6 perforations, to allow for underarm dart at armseye, as you will understand later. Now mark in perforations according to bust number (36) in scale F (for short waisted or fleshy forms mark high dart). All the above work is represented by pencils in Diagram No. 2. Now take the dart rule and measure down from the mark made at edge in scale A the length of front (14 inches) and draw a line down the front that length and mark a line out from the system (see Diagram No. 2). Now mark opposite the underarm length (8½). The underarm length numbers are found on right hand edge of system. All this work is represented in Diagram No. 2. Now move sys em up so waist line of system will be even with marks made for length of front and mark made opposite under arms length, (see diagram No. 3). That will bring centre of darts on waist line of pattern. Now mark in star at waist line and also 12-12-12 in scale G, 12 being the taper number, or difference between the waist and the bust number. (If the waist was 26 then the taper would be 10, or if the waist was 22 the taper would be 14, and so on. This is the only calculation you have to make, everything else is made for you, and this is very simple. To find the taper number, simply subtract the waist number from the bust number, the difference is the taper number. But bear in mind this taper number is a very important factor in Tailor Dress Cutting.) Next find the waist number (24) in waist scale H and follow the line to the right until you come to the taper number (12) and mark directly below in perforation at waist line. Now find hip number (46) in hip scale I and mark down from line at bottom of system. Draw a line down from waist line and across the bottom to mark made in hip scale I. All this work is shown by pencils in Diagram No. 3.

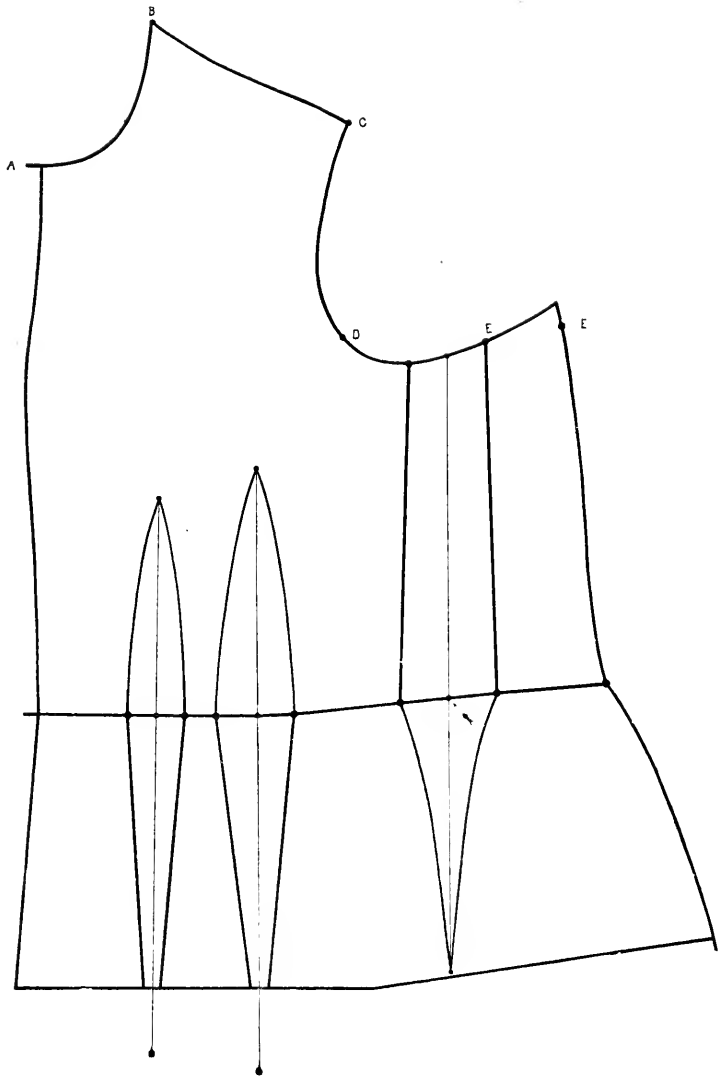
We are now ready to draw outlines and we simply rule from dot to dot with edge of system, using that part representing the neck to draft the neck, the shoulder to draft the shoulder, and so on. We find the desired curve for the shoulder at top of system If a medium shoulder is desired, place the word "medium" under dot made in scale C, etc. Place the arrow in armseye at dot made in scale D and draw a curved line to dot made in scale C, then move the system down enough to let the line continue out through the dot made at (36) in scale E, letting the line run across a little above the dot made at (42) in scale E keeping the arrow on the dot made in scale D. Then draw a line with back edge of system from armseye curve to dot made at waist line in scale H. For hip curve, place waist line of system at waist line of pattern and curve a line to dot made in scale I. Now form the darts above the waist line with dart rule from perforations on the curved edge, where it reads "medium bust" (see Diagrams 4 and 5). Now dot in center of darts on waist line. Lay straight edge of dart rule on dot just made and the dot at top of dart and draw a line straight down 9 inches below waist line. This gives us the lower point of darts (these lines are shown in Diagram No. 1). Use the straight edge of dart rule in making darts below waist line. In laying off the underarm dart, it will first be necessary to get the centre and dot on waist line between the side seam and the back front dart. This gives you the center of the underarm dart.

Now look at taper scale J on front of the system and you will find for a 12 taper this dart is made 2½ inches wide at waist line (measure one-half on each side of dot just made). If preferred, you can make the underarm piece the same width at waist line as sidebody. Now measure in two inches (or any desired width) for underarm piece at armseye from the dot made in 42, scale E and dot, then measure in two inches more and dot. The first two inches is for width of underarm piece; the second two inches is for what you added in scale E for dart at armseye. Use straight edge of dart rule for forming the top of this dart and the same curve for lower part as you did for forming top of front darts, only curve in instead of out. (see Diagrams 4 and 5). Extend the point of this dart, seven inches below waist line. Get this point and dot the same as you got the lower point in side darts.

To make the center back, lay that part of system represented by scales K to T on the paper one or two inches from edge, begin by marking at the underarm length, (8½), which you will find at edge of centerback (on left hand side). Now measure up with the dart rule the length of back (16½) from the mark made at 8½ *and draw a line down edge to* 8½ (see Diagram No. 7). Dot opposite back length, in scales K and L. Now dot in armseye number (14) in M and bust number (36) in scale N. (All this work is shown in Diagram No. 8). Now move the system up so waist line of system will be even with mark made at 8½ (see Diagram No. 9) Keeping edge of system even with back line, now dot as wide as desired for center back in scale O (for person of about this waist measure we use perforation 1). Find the hip number (46) in hip scale P, and mark on line directly below at bottom of system. Draw a line down the skirt of back from mark made at 8½ and across the bottom to mark made in scale P at bottom. (This work is shown in Diagram No. 9). For outlines, begin at the neck, using the parts representing the neck, shoulder, and armseye same as the front. In drafting curved line from scale N down to waist line, use dart rule, giving it any amount of curve desired (see Diagram No. 10), but be careful and give the same curve to the side body piece when you draft that or they will not sew together nicely. We usually use second perforation from point of dart rule.

Special Notice. If person is round shouldered, draw the line in to dot made in scale K. Almost all forms require a small amount taken off center back from neck down three or four inches. You will notice in Diagram No. 6 the line slightly curves in at the letter K.

In making side body piece, use the same part of system. Dot in perforation according to bust number (36) in scales Q and R. Now mark the underarm length (8½) on both sides of system (these last two marks are guides to move the system up to). (All this work is shown in Diagram No. 11). Now move the waist line of system up so it will be even with the last two marks made and dot in the same place in scale O as you did when making centerback. Now find waist number in scale S and mark in perforation at waist line. Now find hip number (46) in hip scale T and mark on line below at bottom of system. Draw a line across the bottom from X to mark made at hip scale T. (This work is shown in Diagram No. 12.) Draw outlines with edge of system representing arm curve and underarm length. For hip curve, place waist line of system at dot made in scale S and draw line down to mark made in scale T. Use dart rule for making curve from dot in scale Q to dot in scale O (see Diagram No. 10).



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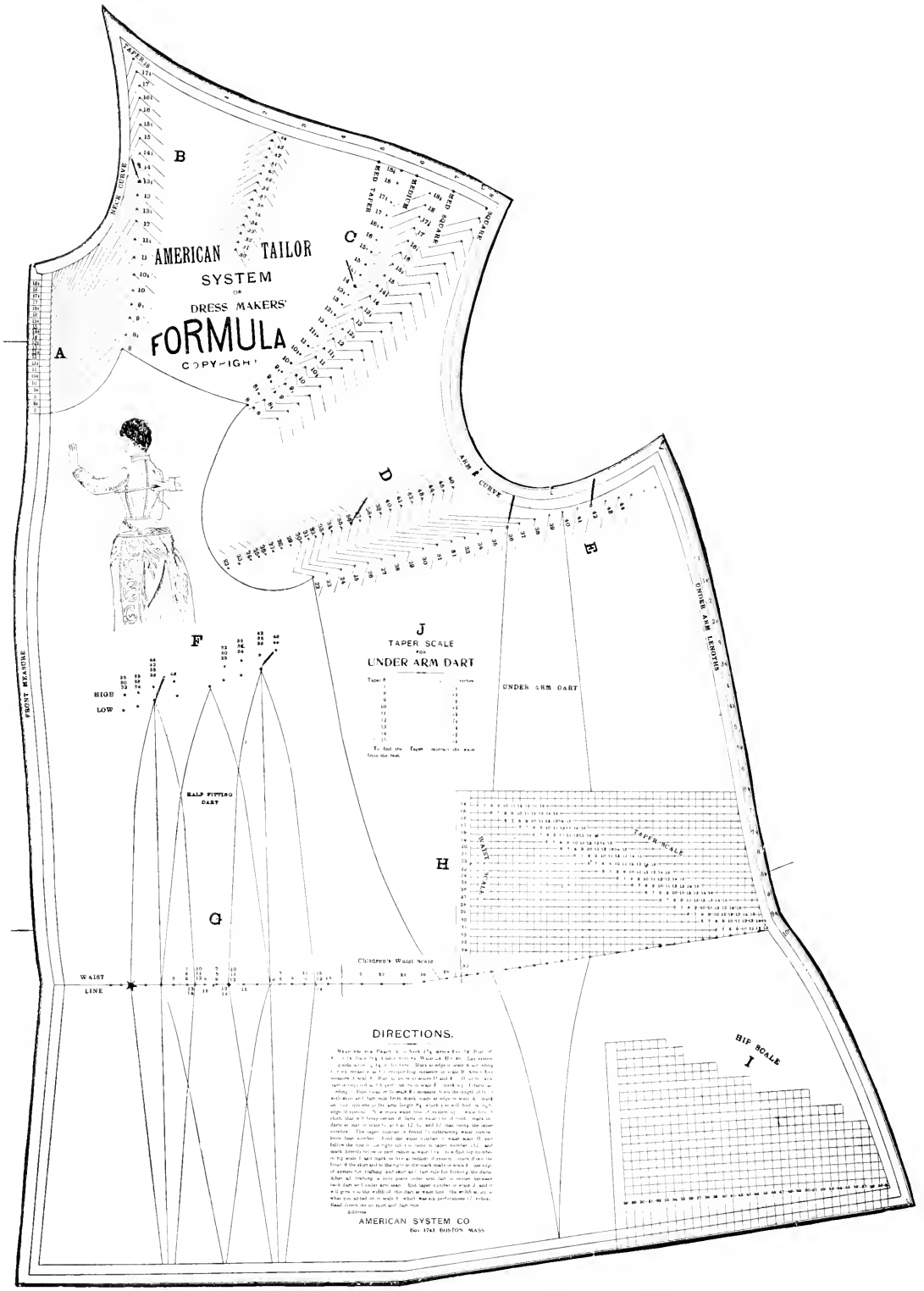
AMERICAN TAILOR
SYSTEM
OF
DRESS MAKERS'
FORMULA
COPYRIGHT
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J
TAPER SCALE
for
UNDER ARM DART
UNDER ARM DART
HALF FITTING DART
HIGH
LOW
WAIST LINE
Children's Waist Scale
HIP SCALE
DIRECTIONS.
AMERICAN SYSTEM CO
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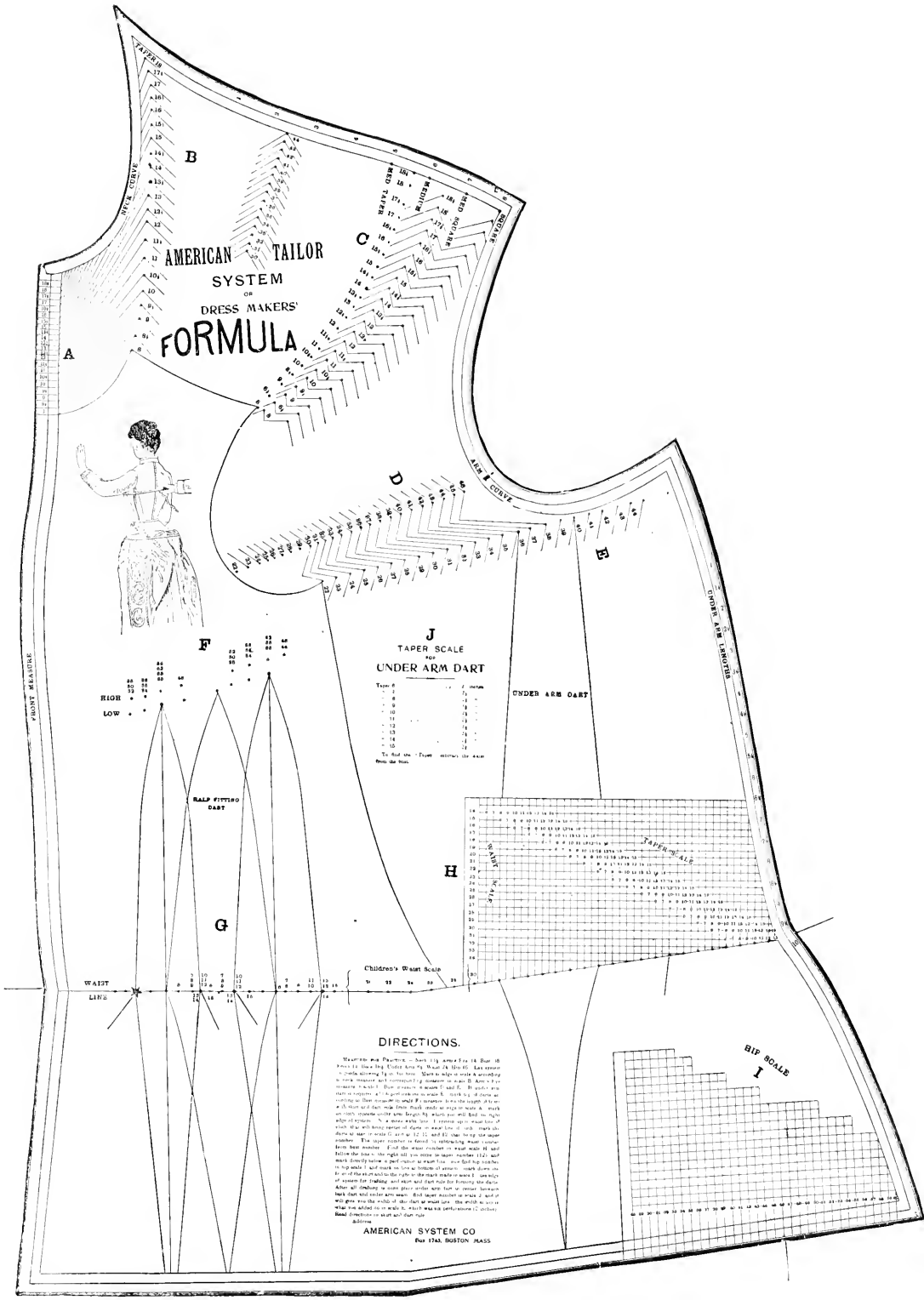
DIAGRAM NO. 2.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ARM'S EYE CURVE
FRONT MEASURE
UNDER ARM CURVE NOTCHES
HIGH
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HALF FITTING DART
WAIST LINE
TAPER SCALE
UNDER ARM DART
WAIST SCALE
HIP SCALE
Children's Waist Scale
DIRECTIONS.
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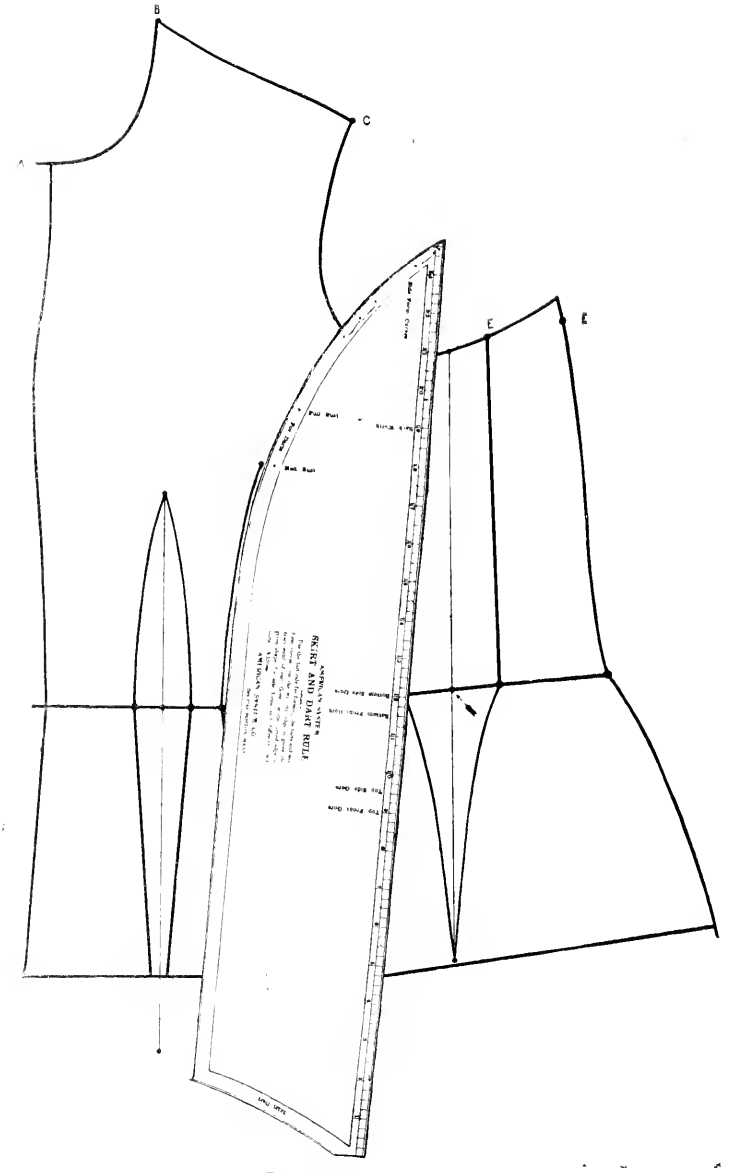
DIAGRAM NO. 3.



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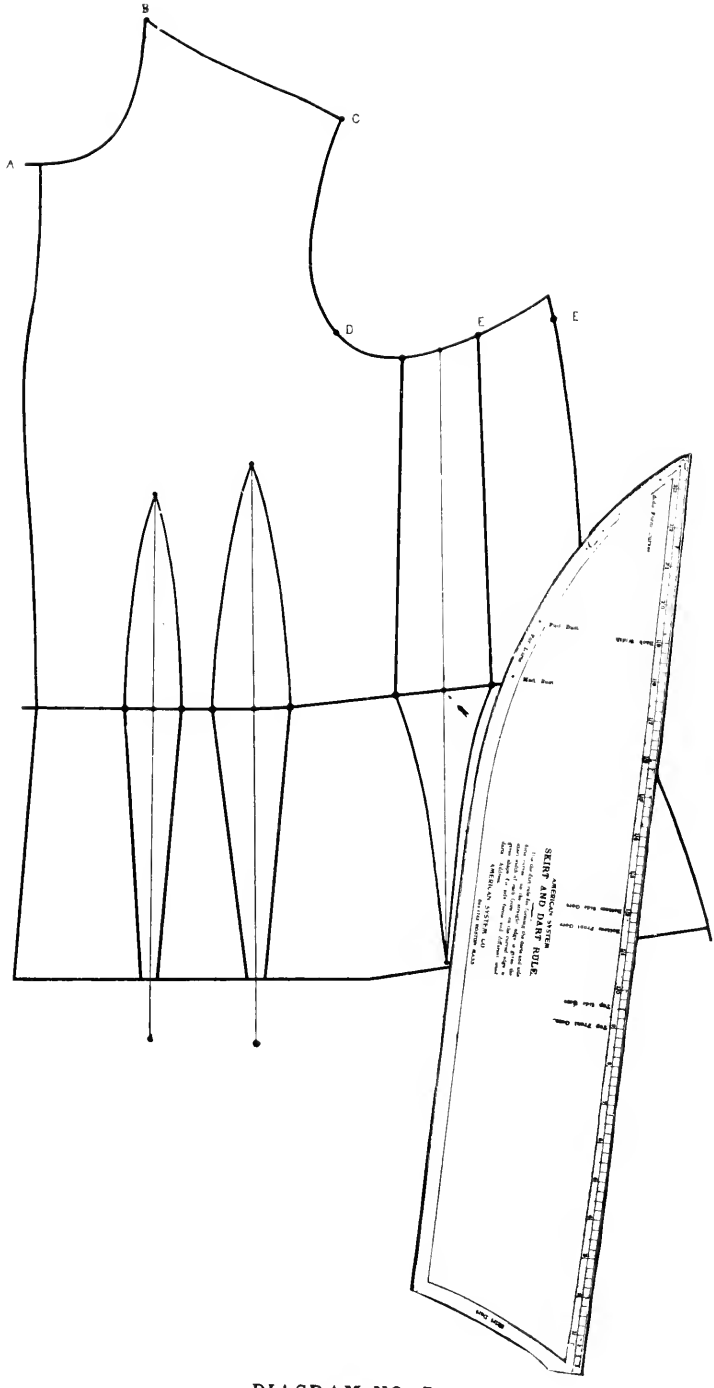

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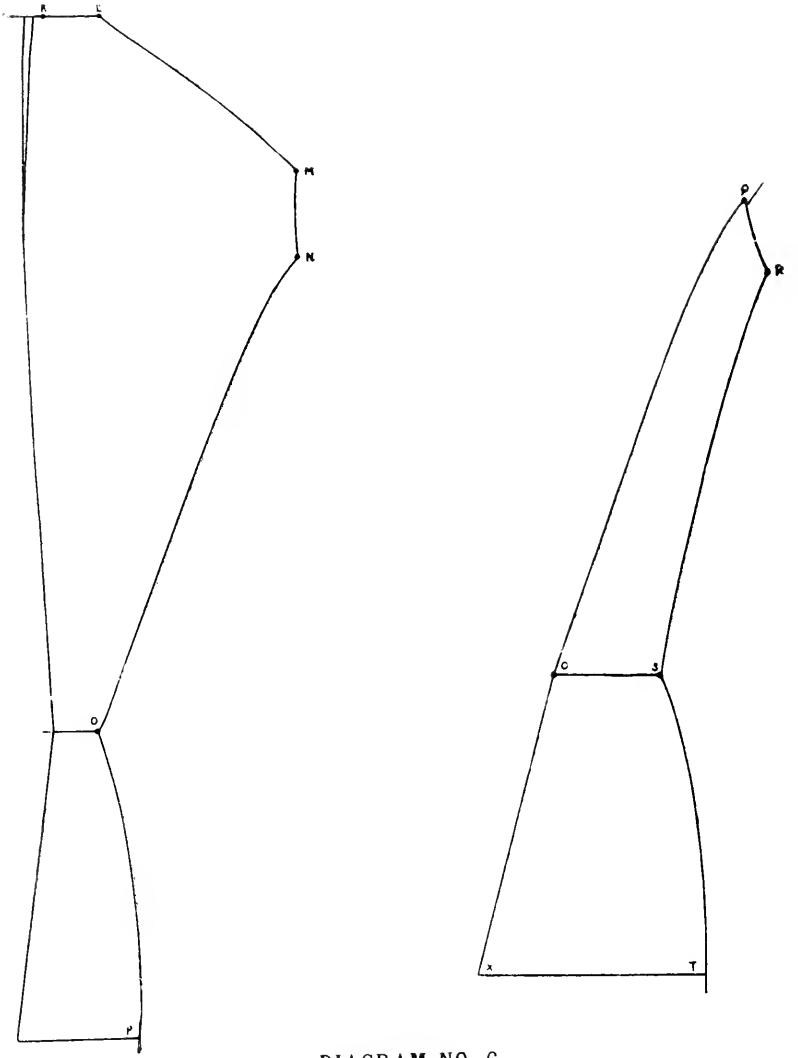

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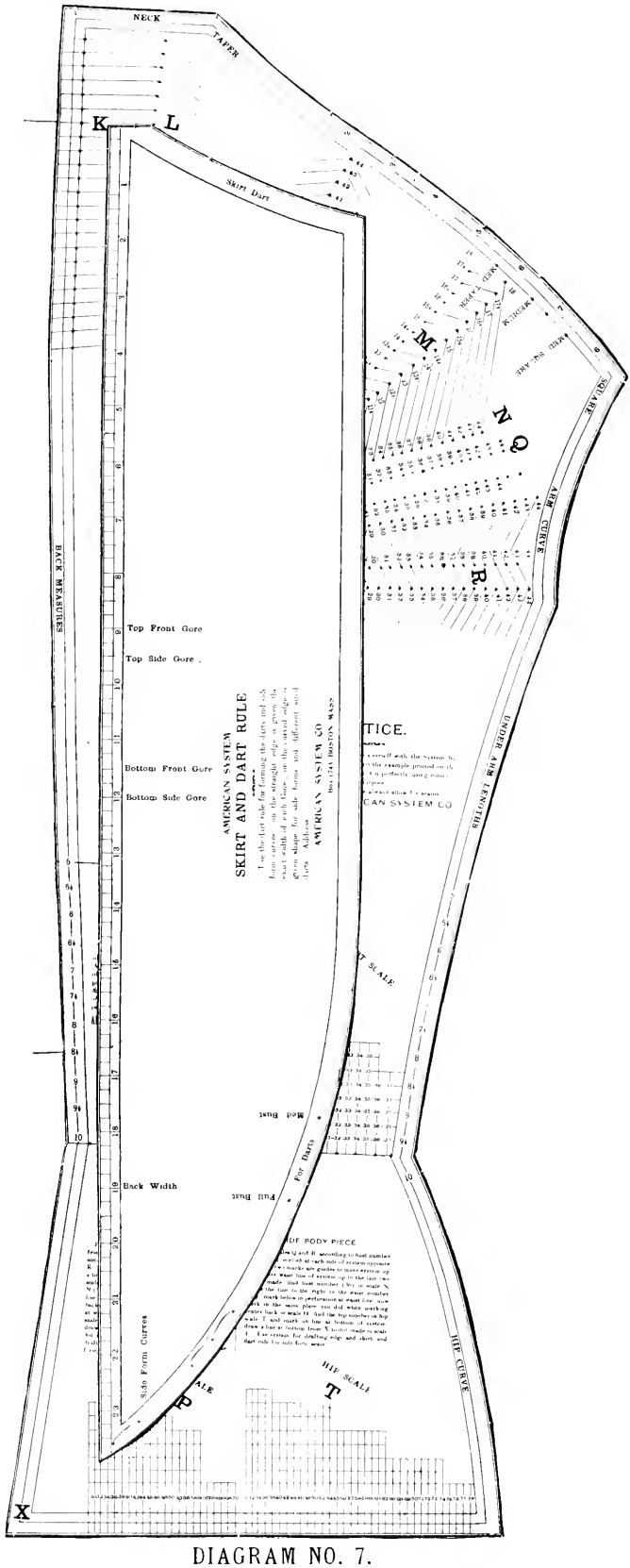
NECK
TAPER
K
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SCYE
ARM CURVE
UNDER ARM LENGTHS
BACK MEASURES
Top Front Gore
Top Side Gore
Bottom Front Gore
Bottom Side Gore
Back Width
AMERICAN SYSTEM
SKIRT AND DART RULE
AMERICAN SYSTEM CO
TICE.
CAN SYSTEM CO
V SCALE
Side Form Curves
Full Bust
For Darts
Bust Dart
HIP SCALE
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HIP CURVE
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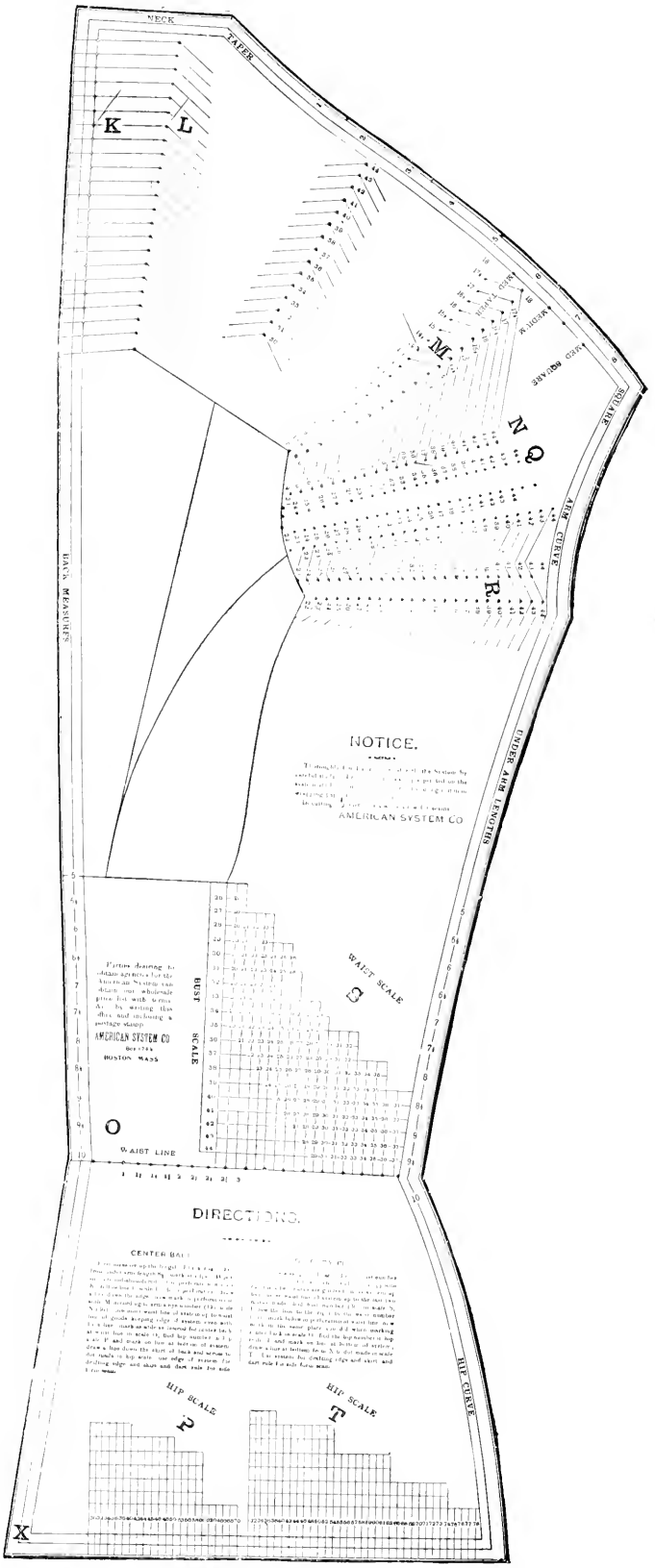
DIAGRAM NO. 7.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BUST SCALE
WAIST SCALE
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CENTER BACK
HIP SCALE
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HIP SCALE
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HIP CURVE
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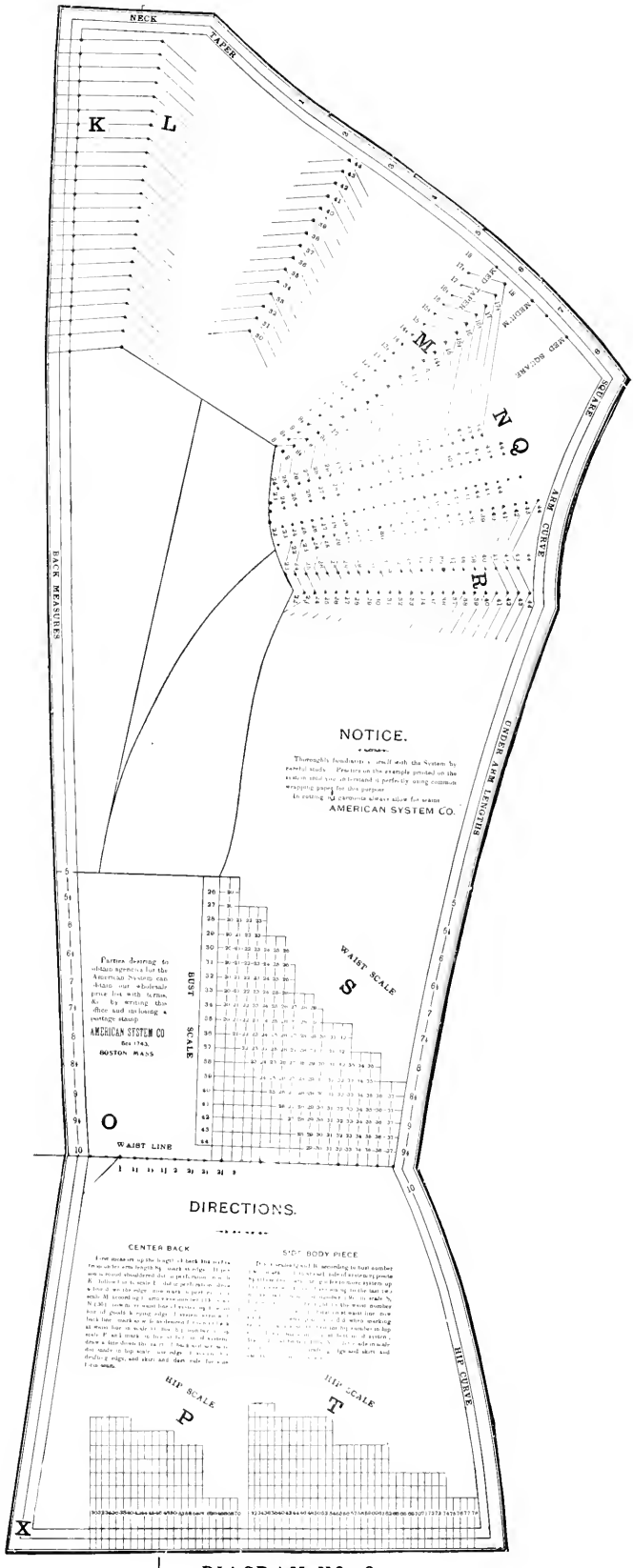
DIAGRAM NO. 8.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UNDER ARM LENGTHS
NOTICE.
AMERICAN SYSTEM CO.
BUST SCALE
WAIST SCALE
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CENTER BACK
SIDE BODY PIECE
HIP SCALE
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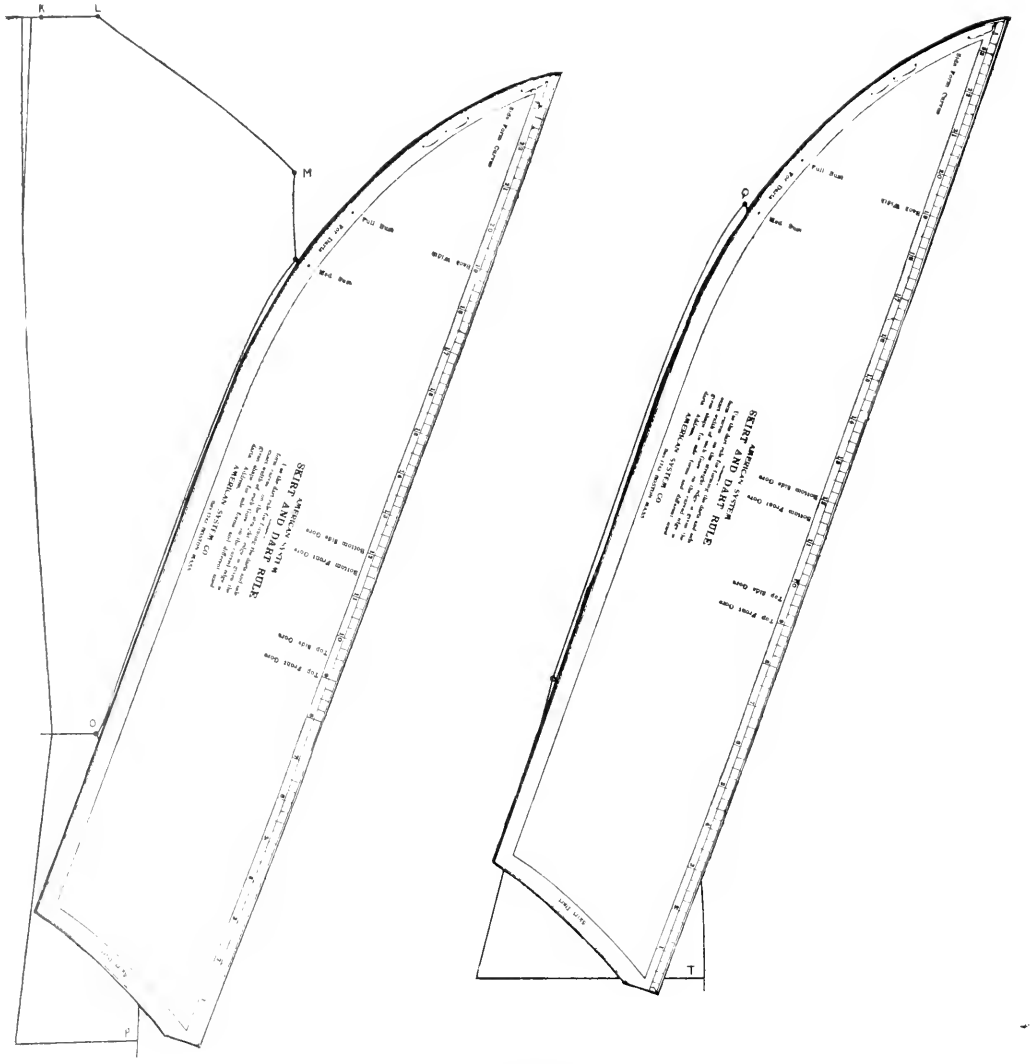
HIP CURVE
X

DIAGRAM NO. 9.



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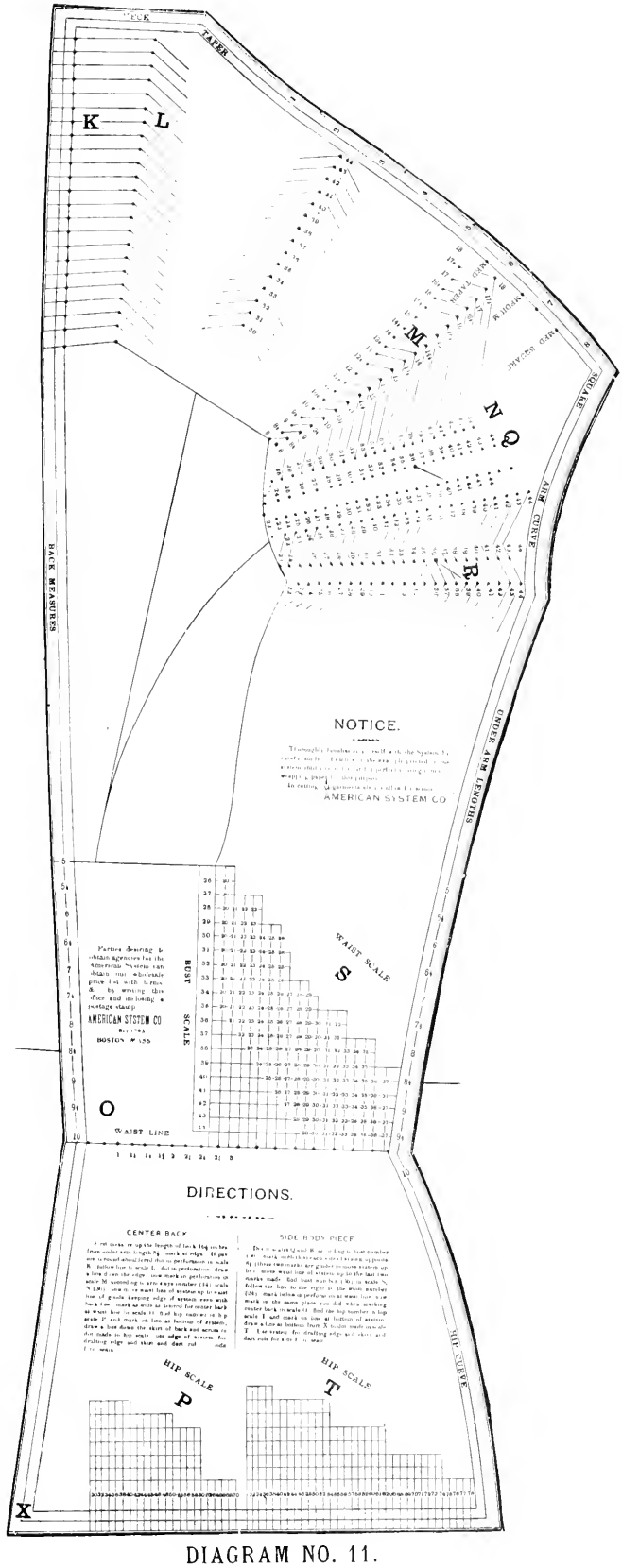

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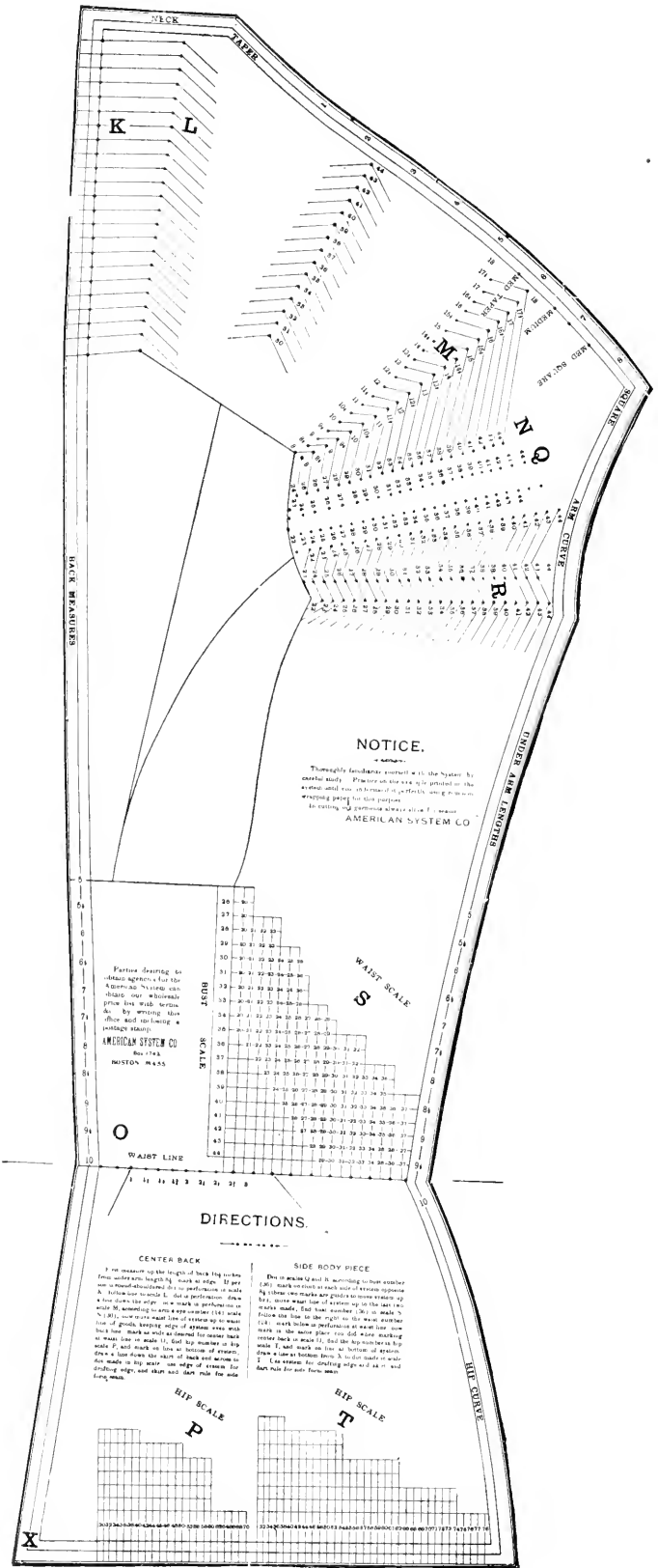

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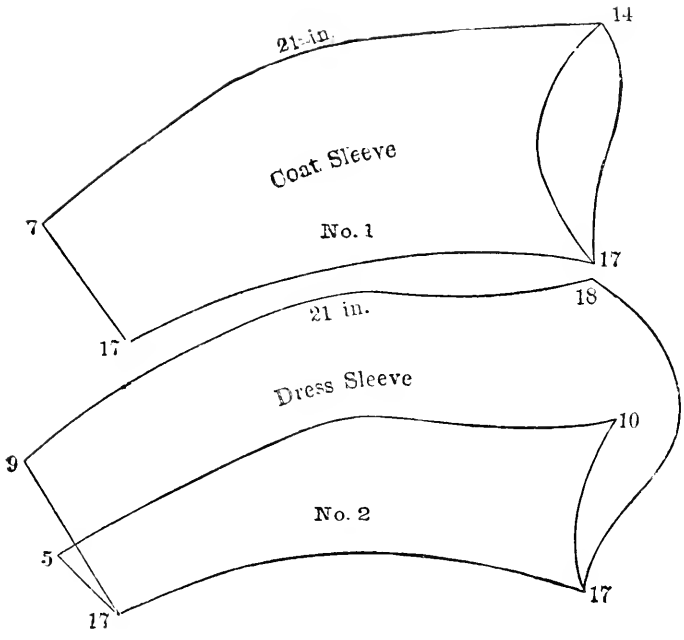

DIAGRAM NO. 13.

For sleeves and sleeve-linings as shown in Diagram No. 13. We take four measures, viz. inner length, outer length with arm bent, around armseye tight, and around the hand back of the knuckles tight. For practice, we will take the following measures:

Inner length, 17 in. Outer length, 21 in. Armseye, 14 in. Cuff, 7 in.

For coat sleeve begin by drawing to numbers representing the inner length (17 to 17) on line W. Find outer length (21) on outer edge of sleeve system in scale V and follow down the line to the cross-line representing the armseye number (14) and dot. Then find outer number (21) on outer edge of cuff in scale U and follow down the line to the cross-line representing the cuff number (7) and dot. Use edge of sleeve system for outlines, always placing the outer number at cuff and dot made at cuff.

For dress sleeve lining, using the same measure, draw on inner curve to numbers representing inner length (17 to 17). Find outer number (21) in scale and follow down the line to the cross-line representing the armseye number (14). Now add two inches (four perforations) and dot (on line 18). Now find outer number (21) in scale U and follow down the line to the cross-line representing the cuff number (7). Add one inch (two perforations) and dot (on cross-line 9). To make outlines, place the outer edge of system so the numbers of the outer length (21 and 21) will be at dots made in scales U and V and draw a line along the edge from dot to dot. Draw a straight line from dot at cuff to dot made at inner length (17). For top of sleeve, place the star designating the size of armseye (14) to dot at inner length and draw a line around to the outer length.

For under half. Draw inner length on curve W to the numbers representing the inner length (17 – 17). Follow down the line representing the outer length (21) at armseye to cross-line representing the armseye number (14) and *take off* two inches (four perforations) and dot (at cross-line 10). Find the outer length number (21) in scale U, and follow down the line until you come to the cross-line representing the cuff number, (7), then *take off* one inch (two perforations to cross-line 5) then add one-half inch longer (one perforation).

Always use the system from the point at armseye for drafting the *top* of under-half. *The lines* and dots of the two parts of the above *dress sleeve lining* are shown on the Sleeve System. For rules for sleeve drafting see general directions on page 4.

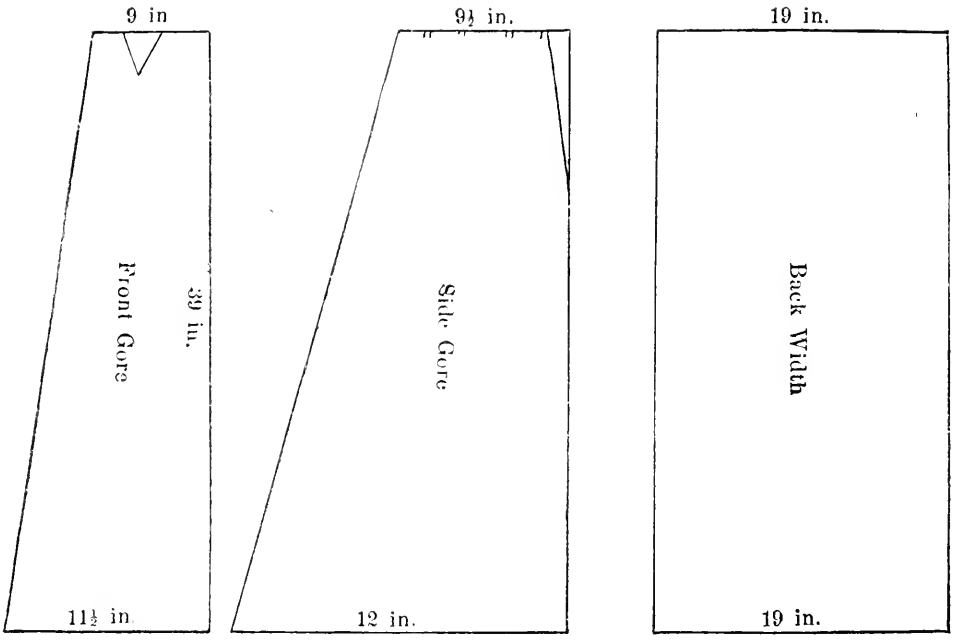

DIAGRAM NO. 14.

Diagram No. 14 represents a plain skirt. Fold goods in center and *measure off the desired lengths*, leaving the fold in center of front. Measure the front gore nine inches at top and eleven and one half inches at the bottom. Take up a dart in each half of front, one, or one and one-half inches in width, and three and one-half inches in length, to fit the form. Side gores are cut with selvedge on the straight edge. Measure nine and one-half inches at the top and twelve inches at the bottom. Take off one-half inch on the straight edge of top (see plate). Cut the back width with fold in center, nineteen inches wide at top and bottom. These measures are for one-half of front and back. After joining the skirt, take up the darts in front and put four shallow plaits in the side gore, placing the first plait on seam of front. The side gore should measure about four inches after the plaits are taken up. These measures are for average size and lengths.

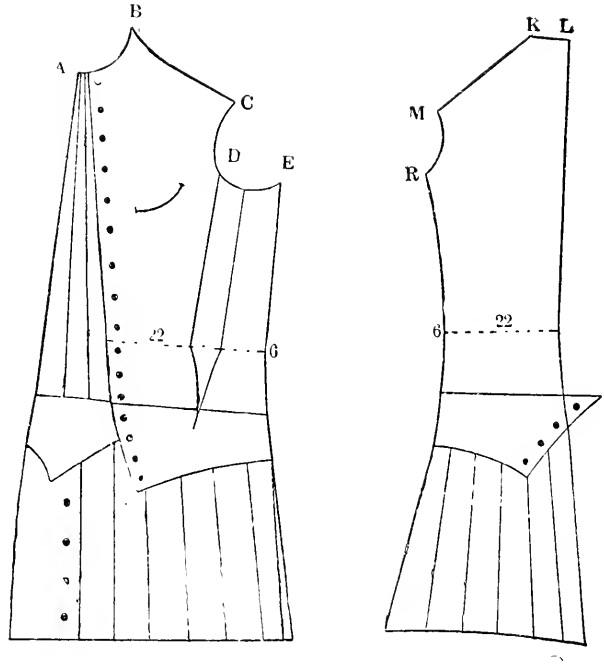

DIAGRAM NO. 15.

Diagram No. 15 represents child's dress. In drafting for children, draft as for grown person, only omit front darts and dot for size of waist in child's waist scale on front of system. Add on at armseye for underarm dart if desired (not more than one inch). Draft, solid or French back.

For drafting waists with French back see page 23.

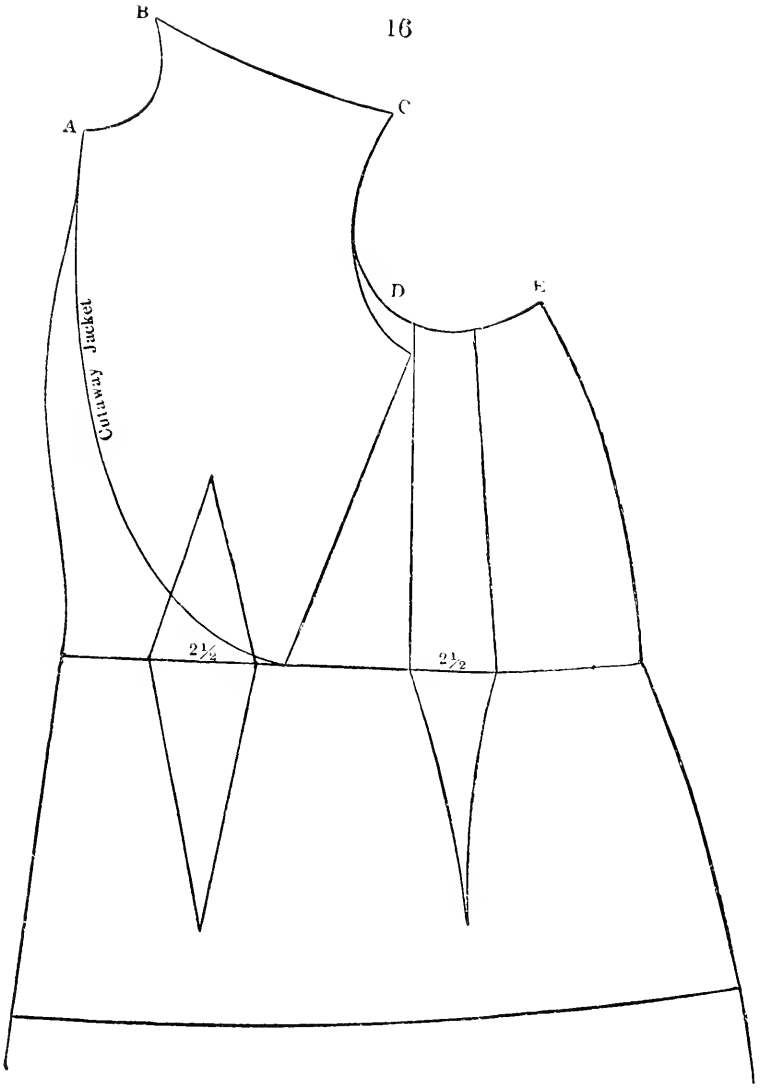

DIAGRAM NO. 16.

Diagram No. 16 represents front of French Jacket. Draft as for ordinary front with the exception of front darts, putting the amount of both darts into one. Extend the waist line (at scale 11) from one to two inches beyond the actual measure required, as seen in plate, and form underarm seam with dart rule. For top of front dart, use perforation at top of "half fitting dart" on system. For width of dart, dot in first perforation at right of star on waist line. Measure three and one-half inches with dart rule and dot in nearest perforation. Use straight or curved edge of dart rule as you prefer for dart above waist line, giving it any curve desired.

For Cutaway. Measure from inside underarm dart the width of front darts and dot. Draw a straight line to armseye. Form curve as per plate.

For French Basque. Draft as for ordinary front with the exception of front darts, putting both darts into one as in French Jacket, using curved edge to form top of front dart and *without* adding anything extra at waist line and using system in drafting outlines the same as plain basque.

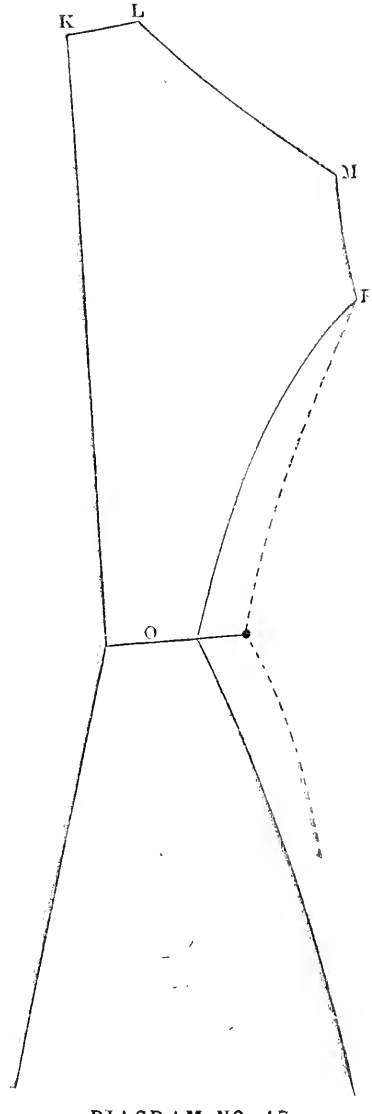

DIAGRAM NO. 17.

Diagram No. 17 represents back of French Jacket. Draft same as for ordinary back, omitting scales N and Q and use whole width of back waist measure, thereby making a solid back. Take off at waist line what you added to the front and use dart rule for curves as for side form (The dotted lines show the whole size).

For drafting back of French Basque. Draft same as for back of French Jacket *except* taking nothing off at waist line, as you add nothing on at the waist line of the front.

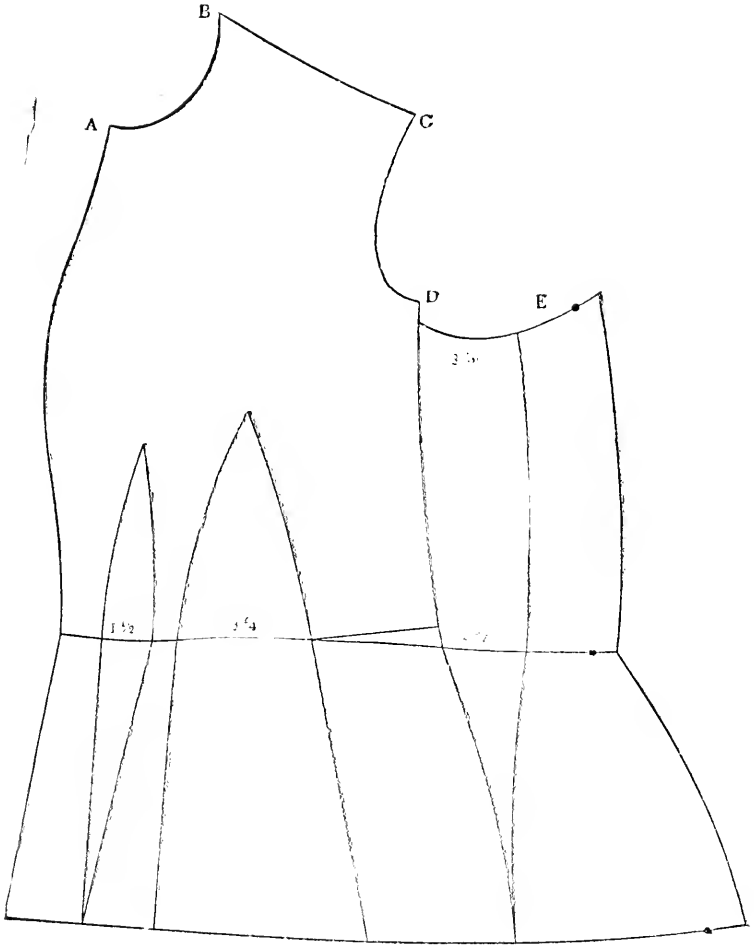

DIAGRAM NO. 18.

Diagram No. 18 represents front of basque with bias dart. Draft same as for plain basque. Add ten perforations in scale E instead of six, and add one and one-fourth inches on the back dart in scale G. Also extend the waist line and hip measure one and one-fourth inches. Place underarm dart so the underarm piece will measure same width at waist line as side form. Before basting underarm dart on to front, raise the waist line of front five eighths of one inch (see plate). In making center back or solid back, draft same as for French back or, in other words, take off at armseye, waist line, and hip measure what you added to the front.

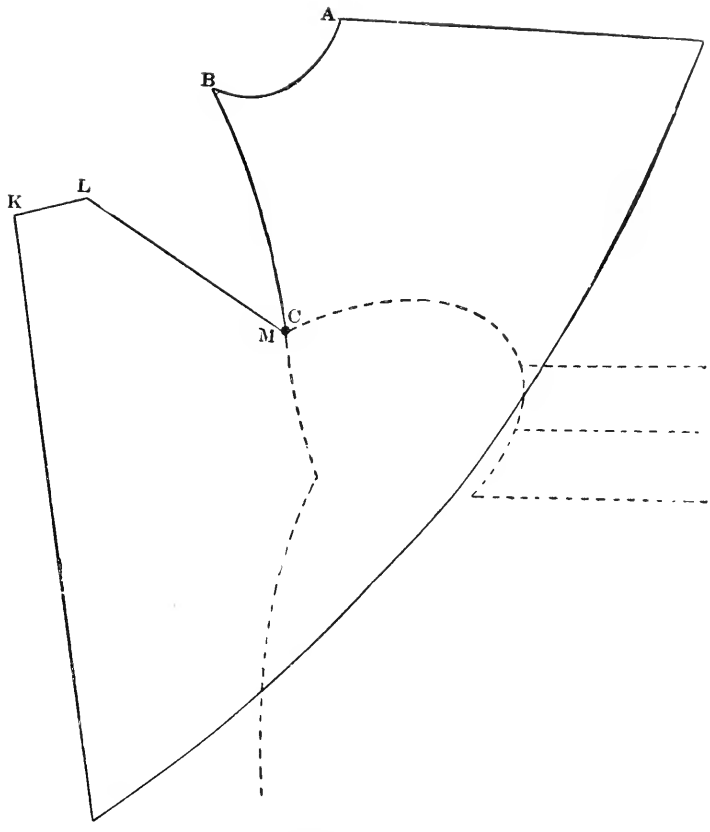

DIAGRAM NO. 19.

Diagram No. 19 represents cape or circular. Measure around the bust outside the arms, and measure down the back and front as long as desired. Take bust measure same as for basque, allowing two numbers, as for cloaks. Draft as for basque, placing point of shoulders together, as in diagram, at an angle to produce the desired width around the shoulders. Extend length as long as desired.

POINTERS.

Draft all lines below the waist for children with but little spring.

Be careful not to get the *Bust* and *Waist* measures too large.

Be careful not to get the *Hip* and *around the form* measures too small.

If wrinkles run across the back and under the arm just above the waist the back and under arm measures are too long. If they run up and down the back over the shoulders, the width of back is too large.

Very few forms are perfect, and it is better to try to improve an imperfect form by padding than to attempt to fit it by cutting.

So many are the styles and so rapid are the changes that no definite rule for draping can be followed. Styles, and the form of the wearer and the quality of the goods must be taken into consideration, also the amount of goods to be used. Stylish drapery must have sufficient material, and practice will be necessary to become proficient in the art of draping.

There is a satisfaction in knowing that you can *cut* a garment to fit, but "there is no excellence without experience." Knowledge cannot be acquired without study and study takes time, therefore take time and study this system.

Study how to take measures correctly, how to draft, trace, and cut accurately. Then you will know how to cut a perfect-fitting garment. Diagrams 1 to 12, inclusive, are the keys to this entire work. Study them until you become familiar with every dot and line.

It has been our endeavor in placing this work before the public to make it the most thorough and perfect instruction book issued for any system. We believe we have succeeded, and that the work will prove a benefit for those to whom it is intended is the earnest wish of

THE AUTHOR.

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